

DEF. DOC. #2123

Exh. No.

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

From the TOKYO ASAHI
Newspaper, June 11, 1938.

(Countermeasures following the Hsuehchow hostilities)

"Five Ministers Conference". Officially Organized.
To Convene from Next Week at Any Time.

Prime Minister KONOYE who has succeeded in reorganizing his cabinet into a strong war-time government in view of coping with developments in the new situation following the HSUEHCHOW hostilities has decided to launch.

Thus he obtained formal recognition for the opening of a ~~Five~~ Ministers Conference at the cabinet conference. All the Ministers agreed to it without disagreement. As the Premier intended, a Five Ministers Conference has been decided to be opened, as the occasion calls, from around next Wednesday. Decisive internal and external policies will be deliberated upon to cope with the situation following the HSUEHCHOW Battle and unity between policy and strategy is expected to be reached. The hitherto-held provisional conference of four or five ministers which had been, held for convenience ~~so to speak~~ ~~so to speak~~ legalized so to speak. All our Chinese policies will be upon establishing a decisive Chinese policy to meet with the new situation. At the opening of the Cabinet Conference on the 10th he said as follows:

"At the most important period following the HSUEHCHOW Battle, the three Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance, and War who are the most concerned in the settlement of the Incident have been reshuffled. With them and the Navy Minister I would like to exchange unreserved opinions in a conference from time to time. It aims at a closer unity between policy and strategy. I am hoping to gain this understanding from you gentlemen of the cabinet" decided by deliberation of the Premier and the other four ministers UGAKI, IKEDA, ITAGAKI and YONAI. The function of the cabinet conference will be to hear the reports of the decisions and limited to perhaps a little discussion on them.

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Thus a war-time cabinet has been realized as the Premier intended. The Five Ministers Conference will probably first deliberate on the international situation and the general internal conditions, especially the present economic and financial situation and then make a decision on our Chinese policy following the HSUCHOW hostilities. In parallel with this above Five Ministers' conference, the Premier expects to discuss general policies at any time with both Ministers ITAGAKI and IKEDA and with both wings. This Three Ministers Conference will be the nucleus of the Five Ministers Conference and will probably play an important role in deciding general policies of the KONOYE Cabinet.

not used

D.O. m. 2123

五相會議正式成立

除州會談
後に對處

(東京朝日
十三・六・十一)

來週から臨時に開催

除州會談後の新情勢の展開に對慮すべく臨時強力内閣への再編成に成功した近衛首相は愈々新局面に對處する不動の對支方針の確立に乘出すことを決意し十日の閣議傍聴に於て除州會談後の重要時期に事變處理に最も關係の深い外務、大藏、陸軍の三相の更迭を見たのでこの際これに海相を加へて隨時隔意なき意見の交換を行ひ政戰兩略に就き一段の緊密化を圖りたい、よつて閣僚辭任の諒解を求める次第である、とて五相會議開催の件に關し正式に閣議の承認を求めた、これに對しては全閣僚異議なく、茲に五相會議開催は首相の方針通り決定、來週水曜日頃より隨時これを開き除州會談後不動の内外政策を協議し、政略戰略の一致を期する事となつた、よつて從來便宜上行はれてゐた四相乃至五相會議はこゝにいはゞ合法化されたことになり、首相を中心宇垣、池田、板垣、米内四相の協議によつて對支方針の一切は決定さるべく閣議はその決定に就き報告を受け若干の論議を行ふ程度のもとなつて首相の企圖した臨時内閣的性質が實現する事となつた譯である。

五相會議の議題は先づ國際情勢並びに國內の一般的狀態、殊に現下の財

政經濟の検討から始まつて遂次徐州戦後に於ける對支方策決定へと會談を重ねて行くであらうが、右五相會議と併行して首相は宇垣、池田兩相が兩翼に於いて隨時一般施政方針も協議すべく此三相會議が五相會議の核心を爲すと同時に近衛内閣の一般的政策に重要な役割を演ずる性質のものとならう。

(ADDITIONAL PAGE)

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文書成立ニ關スル證明書

私ハ朝日新聞社ノ調査部長ノ職ニ在ルモノナル處、茲ニ添付セル日本語ニテ
書カレニ頁ヨリ成ル「五相會議正式成立來週から開議に開催」ト曰スル文書
ハ昭和十三年六月十一日發行ノ朝日新聞紙掲載記事ノ寫ナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年八月十日

於 朝日新聞東京本社調査部長

飯 本 泉

右署名捺印ハ私ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタルモノナルコトヲ證明ス

同日 於 同 所

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